

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 12-14 are rejected. Claims 1 and 12 are amended. Claims 1-14 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action that claim 1 is objected to due to informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the Claim Objections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Claim Objections for claim 1 respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1, 2, 5 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,429,679 issued to Kim et al ("Kim"). Applicant respectfully traverses the aforementioned rejection for the following reasons.

According to MPEP §2131,

[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.' (Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). 'The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.' (Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an ipsissimis verbis test, *i.e.*, identity of terminology is not required. (In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990)).

Applicant's amended claim 1 contains the limitations of

[a]n on-DRAM termination resistance control circuit for adjusting a resistance within a semiconductor memory device that performs an on-DRAM termination operation, comprising: push-up resistance adjusting means for adjusting resistances of a first and a second inner resistor

based on an external reference resistor to drive a pull-up driver; pull-down resistance adjusting means for adjusting a resistance of a third resistor based on the second inner resistor that is adjusted by the push-up resistance adjusting means to drive a pull-down driver; and resistance adjustment control means for controlling the operations of the push-up resistance adjusting means and the pull-down resistance adjusting means for a predetermined commanded adjustment time.

Applicant's amended claim 12 contains the limitations of

[a]n on-DRAM termination resistance control method for adjusting resistance within a semiconductor memory device that performs an on-DRAM termination operation, comprising the steps of: (a) adjusting resistances of a first and a second inner resistors based on an external reference resistor to drive a pull-up driver; (b) adjusting a resistance of a third resistor based on the second inner resistor that is adjusted at the step (a) to drive a pull-up driver; and (c) controlling the steps (a) and (b) for a predetermined commanded adjustment time.

It is asserted in the Office Action that MOS array 3 and 4 shown in Fig. 20 of Kim correspond to first and second inner resistors used for driving a pull-up driver in the Applicant's claimed invention. The MOS array 3 and 4, however, cannot correspond to the first and the second inner resistors of the Applicant's claimed invention. In particular, referring to Fig. 20 of Kim, MOS array 4 is used for controlling a LOW driver in response to an output of register 240. The output of register 240 is used for controlling an UP driver. As disclosed in Kim, MOS array 3 is used for controlling the UP driver; and MOS arrays 4 and 8 are used for controlling the LOW driver.

Distinguishable, in Applicant's claimed invention, both the first and the second inner resistors are used for driving a pull-up driver corresponding to the UP driver of the cited reference; and a third inner resistor is used for driving a pull-down driver corresponding to the LOW driver. Therefore, Kim does not teach, disclose or suggest

push-up resistance adjusting means for adjusting resistances of a first and a second inner resistor based on an external reference resistor to drive a pull-up driver; pull-down resistance adjusting means for adjusting a

resistance of a third resistor based on the second inner resistor that is adjusted by the push-up resistance adjusting means to drive a pull-down driver; and resistance adjustment control means for controlling the operations of the push-up resistance adjusting means and the pull-down resistance adjusting means for a predetermined commanded adjustment time

or

(a) adjusting resistances of a first and a second inner resistors based on an external reference resistor to drive a pull-up driver; (b) adjusting a resistance of a third resistor based on the second inner resistor that is adjusted at the step (a) to drive a pull-up driver; and (c) controlling the steps (a) and (b) for a predetermined commanded adjustment time.

Since Kim does not disclose, teach or suggest all of Applicant's amended claims 1 and 12 limitations, Applicant respectfully asserts that a *prima facie* rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has not been adequately set forth relative to Kim. Thus, Applicant's amended claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated by Kim. Additionally, the claims that directly or indirectly depend from claims 1 and 12, namely claims 2 and 5, and 13-14, respectively, are also not anticipated by Kim for the same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections for claims 1, 2, 5 and 12-14 are respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 3, 4, 6-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-14, as they now stand, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-14 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN

LLP

Dated: December 20, 2005

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

By: 

Steven Laut, Reg. No. 47,736

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 20, 2005.


Jean Svoboda